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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Angelo T. DONFRANCESCO et al.

Serial No.: 09/105,150

Filed: June 26, 1998

For: TERMINAL SYSTEM WITH
DEFORMED SCREW

PATENT

Group Art Unit: 2833

Examiner: NGANDJUI, A.



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T. Flowers

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 18, 2000, reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 4-16 and 18 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 11 and 16 being independent.

DRAWINGS

Formal drawings were submitted on May 14, 1999. No comment on the formal drawings, and no Notice of Draftsperson Patent Drawing Review, PTO 948 has been provided with the June 4, 1999, the October 28, 1999 and the February 18, 2000 Office Actions. Approval of the formal drawings is requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 4-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,340,497 to Balint in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,736,741 to Paratte. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

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Balint teaches a deformation 35 extending only along the exterior longitudinal surface of the shank 8. As was agreed during the January 6 personal interview and indicated in the outstanding Office Action, Balint does not disclose, teach or render obvious the claimed stake extending in the circular and planar end of the screw shank and along a chord of the second end, as discussed in applicants' Amendment filed August 24, 1999.

The Office Action alleges that Paratte teaches in Fig. 3 a deformation 13 being a stake formed in a second end of a shank and extending along a chord of the second end and that it would have been obvious "to modify the terminal of Balint by forming a deformation being a stake formed in the second end of a shank and extending along a chord of the second end as taught by Paratte to prevent the screw from backing out of the hole. However, the Paratte deformation 13 is not a stake in the circular end of a screw shank and does not teach or suggest modifying the non-analogous Balint wire terminal.

The Paratte device, for securing an electric cell 5 in a timepiece movement housing 2, comprises two tempered steel truncoconical washers 9 and 10 and two screws 11 and 12. Each washer 9, 10 has a cut-away face 13 forming a chord and making an acute angle with the smaller base of the washer. The cut-away face of each washer forms a sharp edge to bite into the cell lateral wall as the screws are threaded into bores 15 and 16 according to the operation described in Paratte column 2, lines 26-50.

Since the washer is not a screw shank, Paratte cut-away face 13 is not a stake formed in a second end of a shank and extending along a chord of the second end, as alleged in the Office Action, but rather is only a cut-away face on an unthreaded washer. More particularly, Paratte face 13 is not part of a threaded or screw shank that disrupts threads to prevent withdrawal of the threaded or screw shank from an internally threaded bore. Each Paratte face 13 is merely a surface for engaging and retaining cell 5, and does not control the movement of the respective screw 11 or 12 by disrupting the threads of the screw.

Additionally, the cut-away face 13 in Paratte extends along the longitudinal axis of the washer, and is not along a chord of the second end. In fact, the cut-away portion of face 9, 10 in Paratte coincides with the longitudinal axis of the threaded portion of the

screw 11. That formation of the cut-away 13 maintains the washer 9, 10 in position in housing 2, and does not prevent the screw 11 from backing out.


Since the Paratte washer face 13 is not on the end of a screw and does not deform screw threads, Paratte would not teach or suggest or render obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Balint screw by relocating its stake 35 from the screw side to the screw end. Moreover, the respective environments and the purposes of the Paratte face 13 and the Balint stake 35 are so different that it is not obvious to modify the location of one in view of the location of the other.

The remaining claims are patentably distinguishable for reasons previously made of record. Such reasons are not repeated to avoid burdening the record.

For at least the reasons set forth above and in the August 24, 1999 Amendment, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4-16 and 18 are allowable. Prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 26, 2000



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PATENT

Case Docket No.: **40043**

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In re Application of: **Angel T. D nFranc sco**

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Examiner: **Ngandjui, A.**

For: **TERMINAL SYSTEM WITH DEFORMED SCREW**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith is an Request for Reconsideration in the above-identified application:

- ☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.
- ☐ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.
- ☐ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	SMALL ENTITY			OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL	15	- 20 =	0	x 9 = \$	x 18 = \$
INDEP	3	- 3 =	0	x 39 = \$	x 78 = \$
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULT. DEP. CLAIM				+ 130 = \$	+ 260 = \$
If the difference in Col. 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in Col. 2				TOTAL \$	TOTAL \$

- ☒ Applicant(s) petition(s) for an extension of 1 month(s) to respond and submits herewith the fee of **\$110.00**.
- ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 18-2220 in the amount of \$_____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.
- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$110.00** is attached.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-2220. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.
- ☒ Any additional excess claim fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16.
- ☒ Any additional patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Dated: May 26, 2000

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